

# Michigan Even Start

Family Literacy is Improving in Michigan!

#### The Even Start Family Literacy Program

strives to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by improving educational opportunities for families. This is accomplished by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy and adult basic education, parent-child interactive literacy and parenting education into a unified literacy program.

"Even Start is like no other program in the nation. In addition to providing parents with literacy skills, it empowers them with life, employment and parenting skills that help strengthen families and lead to self-sufficiency." Senator Hillary Clinton



### Description of Even Start Families (2004–2005)

- 94% of families had incomes below the poverty level\*
- 97% of adults did not have a high school diploma\*
- 73% of the adults were not employed\*
- 67% of adult participants were 16-24 years old
- 40% of adults had not gone beyond ninth grade\*
- 1,482 children were served\*

\*These percents were all higher for 2004-05 than for the previous year (2003-04)

#### **About Michigan Even Start**

- There were 32 programs in 28 Michigan counties (2004-2005) that served a total of 1,378 families in the most recent reporting year.
- Even Start programs offer four components: interactive family literacy, parenting education, early childhood education and adult education.
- Information is collected yearly to identify areas that are functioning well and those that need improvement. Evaluation is in place to assess competency related to 15 specific outcomes in these areas: General Program and Family Information, Child and Adult Outcomes, and Parenting and Parent-Child Interactive Literacy.
- Findings from data analysis are used to drive continuous improvement at the local level and identify areas where additional support and technical assistance are needed from state staff.

Michigan Even Start Family Literacy Program is a component of Michigan Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services. For information contact Reneé De Mars-Johnson or Cheryl Hall (517) 373-8483 or visit the web site www.michigan.gov/evenstart.

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#### DATA SHOWS CONTINUOUS **IMPROVEMENT! INDICATOR CHANGE PER PROGRAM** 2004-2005 2003-2004 PER PROGRAM PER PROGRAM Number of +.2 families 38.5 38.7 families targeted +.7 42.4 43.1 **Families** families (110% (110% served of the goal) of the goal) +.2 **Adults** 44.5 44.7 served adults Children +2.050.4 52.4 served children MICHIGAN EVEN START INDICATORS/OUTCOMES

## 2003-04 2004-05 CHANGE

	2003-04	2004-03	CHANGE	
Percentage of children scoring above the cut-off on a developmental assessment	82	87	+5	
Percentage of school-age (K-2) children promoted to next level	93	89	-4	
Percentage of adults with growth of $\geq$ 1.0 grade level in at least one skill area	59	65	+6	
Percentage of adults with at least 75% of credits needed for a diploma who graduated	66	68	+2	
Percentage of ESL (English As a Second Language) participants demonstrating a gain during one year	89	92	+3	
Percentage of adult participants who earned a GED in two years	83	82	-1	
Percentage of adults completing a GED, diploma or achieving English proficiency that continued with more education, job training or obtained employment	62	64	+2	